

Chairman's Report 2017

As I write this report I am reminded of a previous report I wrote several years ago stating that part of the Chairman's job was to bring to the Parish Councils notice, changes in Government policies that effect the way local government services will be provided. Since 2010 successive Governments have seen an ever greater role for the first tier of local government, and under the Localism Act 2012 Town and Parish Councils are now expected to work in partnership with communities, charities and voluntary groups.

This devolution Act is already having an impact for some larger town councils' who have had a general expansion of their role taking over services and in some cases assets, from their principal authorities, who have taken the opportunity to shed some discretionary services which for years they had failed to invest in. This is now gathering pace, affecting all town and parish councils in one way or another as all principal authorities look at this as a way to reduce their costs but unfortunately adding increases to town and parish council's budgets.

A major change now facing Town and Parishes is the increase in housing growth and the need for identifying suitable sites for development. Rushcliffe BC is under pressure from the government for failing to identify and supply more land for development and has embarked on Stage 2 of its Strategic Development Plan. The Borough Council and some developers are now looking seriously at Cropwell Bishop, particularly the land that had been put forward in the Strategic Plan Phase 1.

Following the announcement of the consultation meeting at the Old School at the beginning of March there was some speculation on the village Facebook page regarding the number of properties that would be built if planning consent is given. Thankfully most of the numbers being quoted were off the mark and a more realistic number is now confirmed but some of the sites are giving concern to a lot of people including me.

The Parish Council accepts that some growth to the village will take place but like many residents would oppose large scale development. No matter what size development we have placed on us our school, surgery and infrastructure will need to expand significantly to cope with even a medium scale development.

Town & Parish Forums /Conferences:

The Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors have continued to attend Town & Parish training forums at the Civic Centre and the Annual Conference at Cotgrave. Rushcliffe RBC s rationalisation programme is nearing completion and the new Civic Centre at the West Bridgford Arena is now open.

At the end of March Tony Jarrow and myself attended an RCAN Neighbourhood Plan Event hoping to see how a Neighbourhood Plan could help shape any development taking place in Cropwell Bishop. We had gone along with the idea that would help us the same has the Parish Plan had done. We came a way quite despondent feeling that these plans are only for the consultants benefit that we must pay to help set one up.

Borough Boundary:

As I reported last year the boundary changes resulted in Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler becoming a single Borough seat won by Cllr Gordon Moore. The other change coming in 2017 will see boundary changes in the Notts County Council Elections with Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler becoming part of a new seat called Bingham West. Unfortunately we lose our extraordinary Councillor Richard Butler who has helped and supported us in the many things we have been able to achieve.

In the next General Election Rushcliffe will cease to exist as a Parliamentary seat and we become part of the **Newark** seat.

The Environment:

In November we were notified that the Planning Inspectorate had ruled against Notts CC and granted Chris Allsop Holdings permission to dump inert waste in a hole that they had created without planning consent. Having now read through the report, we realise it imposes strict conditions on the company on how it must comply and regarding the length of time it can operate.

In October the parish council was given a conducted tour of the Anaerobic Digester power plant at the A46 roundabout by Russell Price of Samworth Farms and his team, an impressive way of generating electricity and something we fully support.

Russell Price has also financed the re-planting and landscaping of the roundabout adjacent to his land near the A46

On another happy note I cannot praise our village Ranger enough as he continues to do a superb job in keeping the village clean and tidy with entrances to the village being made a priority again because we genuinely believe that first appearances tell visitors and those passing through about the character of the village and those living in it.

Since joining the 'Lengthmans' scheme his duties now cover far more than we envisioned and are set to increase again with changes brought through the Localism Act and we hope funding will still be provided by the County Council for this scheme.

And of course something many of us take for granted is the Gardening Club members who continue to make such a difference to the appearance of the village and the Pinfold along with the Old School garden with their wonderful well thought out planting of the Jubilee garden.

Due to the closure of Langer Recycling Centre we have had an increase in Fly Tipping. These incidents are reported to the Borough Council and have been dealt with swiftly and efficiently by the Streetwise Team. As reported in the Cropwell News please continue to report any incidents of fly tipping to Streetwise or by contacting the Clerk.

Policing:

Cropwell Bishop still continues to have a low serious crime rate but we do have spates of burglaries and thefts from our local Co-op and of equipment from unguarded premises. At the last Area Police Meeting (LAG) held on 1st February 2016. Pc. Redgate reported that changes due to start in April meant that PCSO's will be picking up some of the Beat Manager duties, with the Beat Managers formulating one Rushcliffe Beat Team.

Those changes in Policing have meant that these meetings along with the Beat Surgeries have now ceased. Our local PCSO John Heaps now has the added responsibility for Wiverton, Keyworth Upper Broughton and parts of Cotgrave. During a recent tour of the village PCSO Heaps apprehended a young man who he suspected of supplying drugs during the search of this person's vehicle a large quantity of drugs were found, the vehicle was ceased and the man arrested.

PCSO Heaps is also in charge of coordinating the new Speed Watch system.

Cropwell's Speed watch coordinator is now John Hallam but unfortunately he still only has 3 other members to call on due to the lack of volunteers, but he has still organised regular watches.

Entertainment:

The range and variety of different films and acts that has graced the Old School this year is again down to the continued hard work of the Entertainments Group.

Through being able to access the latest films, they have provided a wide range of new films for villagers, and are once again involved with Live & Local (formerly called Village Ventures) to bring 3 rural touring acts to the village.

Picnic in the Park:

Again hundreds of people attended last year's 'Picnic in the Park' even with the poor weather which was not on our side this year. However the event still proved to be entertaining with the audience enjoying the local band 'Contraband' followed by Ready Steady 60s. The evening drew to a close with yet another spectacular fireworks display which people stayed to watch despite the downpours. This year will see the return of the brilliant DJ Nigel and his Night Train Disco.

Since its inception Picnic in the Park has been organised by our Parish Clerk, firstly by Jacki Grice and in recent years Janice Towndrow but following the March meeting of the Parish Council it was decided that this should cease as it was not part of her job remit and next year Cllr Lisa Hazell and her partner Alex will take over the organisation and the booking of the groups.

Scouts:

The Scout Group continues to grow with young people coming from other villages to join but it suffers like many other groups with a lack of adult helpers which has affected the Beaver Colony which again restricts the number of young people able to attend.

Youth Club:

Another busy year saw the Youth Club numbers grow with the New Year 6 intake joining in September. We are now entertaining over 50 members at each session with children ranging from 10 – 17 years old including our 4 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

Many enjoy the different craft activities we prepare each week or just relaxing and playing pool in the very popular upstairs area. We also have Wii, X Box and 2 table tennis tables, Air Hockey, Table Football and 2 lap tops. We hope that we are providing a great place for our younger members (year 6) to start their adolescence where they can safely hang out with their friends. Organised by Jo Wroughton our regular volunteers are Jane Miller, Angela Hallam, Alan Wilson, Elaine Mellor, Sue Ward, Yvonne McCrea and Natalie Pearson. We are supported by and are very grateful to our village butcher, Gary Jowett, who donates hot food for our ever-hungry members! We also provide volunteering places for village young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and John Glover, Ben Jowett and Tash Callon are a great help.

More details can be found on our website www.ckob.co.uk. If you would like to visit us or volunteer you are most welcome. Jo Wroughton 07891 694541

Play Equipment:

The Multi Play equipment that had been installed 20years ago in the small children's area was in need of substantial refurbishment. The refurbishment was carried out by its original installer at a cost of £6208. The inspection also identified that some of the safety matting needed replacing, it was replaced with the up to date 'Fibrefall' matting at a cost of £2904 which was funded from our reserves and grants of £250 from Cllr R Butler and £200 from Cllr G Moore.

Following the Parish Clerk's successful grant bid of £10,000 from the 'Awards for All' part of the Big Lottery Fund, a new outside gym has been installed on the Memorial Hall playing field at beginning of May.

The Skate Ramp is giving concern due to the continual need to replace damaged sheets of plywood surfacing and we need to consider whether next year it should be removed or grant funding sought to replace it with a concrete structure.

Acknowledgments:

This year we say farewell to **Cropwell Care** which has now folded.

To the Memorial Hall Committee who continue to work tirelessly for the village.

Cropwell Café: Linda Field, Myra Kendall, Sue Rickells, Margaret Paul, Linda Hamlin, Margaret Ironside, Nigel Bacon, Glenys Denby, Elaine Simpkins, Sue Thorpe, Pamela Gale, Hilary Dobbs, Deb Brookes, Pip Edwards, Sue Ward, Julie Rockcastle, Vicki Ellis and Glyn Greenwood

Luncheon Club: Myra Kendall, Margaret Paul, Joan Terrza and Linda Hamlin.

Cropwell Singers: led by Derek Tabron.

Entertainment & Activities: Jane & Tim Travis, Steve & Judith Gelsthorpe, Helen & Gerry Humphries, Jan Towndrow, Bob Stanley, Lisa Hazell, John Greenwood and Katharine Say.

Parish Councillor: John Greenwood who continues to a campaign for improved bus services.

Notts County Councillor & Borough Councillor Richard Butler & Gordon Moore whose financial help advice and support has made so many things achievable

Gary Jowett: for his support in selling the tickets for all village films and events and providing free food to our Youth Club.

Ray Kimpton: our Village Ranger continues to keep the appearance and cleanliness of the village his priority despite the increased duties that the Lengthmans Scheme has brought about.

Simon Bowler: the Old School Caretaker who works the unsocial hours so that other people can enjoy the benefit of a community building

My thanks to the village **Scouts**, led by **Chris Keast**, **Youth Workers**, led by **Jo Wroughton** and the **Parish Cllrs** who all continue to give their time to make a difference to our community.

Phil Palmer, Louisa Hussey and Jeremy Lee and all the staff of Cropwell Bishop Primary School that help make this a community where people wish to raise a family.

Tony Jarrow and Marie Carter for providing the village Websites which have become vital village tools
Darrel Towndrow who set up the Parish Council website and continues to help keep it running and whom continues to be a big help to me when I need his expertise.

And last but not least my special thanks to our **Parish Clerk Janice Towndrow** who had continued her work from home during her recuperation from a hip replacement and continues to contribute many unpaid hours of work to make such a difference to our village.

Alan Wilson - Chairman.